

## Today in National Affairs

# Eisenhower's Attack on Democrats Called Sound, Penetrating

By David Lawrence

WASHINGTON, June 1.—It's always a significant event when spokesmen of the party out of power give their size-up of what the party in power is doing.

Former President Eisenhower's remarks at the testimonial dinner here honoring Republican members of Congress tell at least what the chief executive who left office a little more than four months ago thinks of the succeeding Administration. Mr. Eisenhower used the implicit rather than the explicit style of expression, but it was not difficult to discern his meaning.

Many people, as a matter of fact, who supported the Republican ticket have been wondering why the Republicans in Congress have not been more vocal and more pointed in their criticisms. The speech of former President Eisenhower was dignified but nevertheless penetrating. Here is a passage, for instance, where the inference is clear, though the words are restrained:

"I was proud when, in recent crises, members of our party did not attempt to criticize, condemn or belittle those in authority. This we did even though some seemed disposed falsely to blame us. We did not scurry about in search of a 'scrapgoat.' We defy anyone's efforts to do so. Here I pay my personal tribute to the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff, all the members of which body I have known long and well. It is my conviction that America possesses no group of men more dedicated, more patriotic and more capable in meeting grave responsibility."

### Unwise to Weaken Trust

The reference undoubtedly was to press reports recently that President Kennedy has been passing the buck to the Joint Chiefs for the fiasco of the "invasion" of Cuba, though it is well known that they were not given responsibility for the conduct of the operation. The implication is plain that Mr. Eisenhower thinks it was unwise for the present Administration to start blaming the military chiefs and thus tend to weaken public confidence in them.

It was in domestic affairs generally, however, that the former President expressed his most vehement criticism. He said:

"What, exactly, do we stand for here at home? We Republicans see Mr. American in his high station as a free, self-reliant, proud individual. We are convinced that he can plan his own life and spend his own money better than some possibly benevolent bureaucrat can in his behalf. Any action that weakens any citizen's self-respect is wrong. That is the reason we oppose the ever-increasing concentration of power in Washington.

### Government Can Rob, Too

"All agree it is criminal for one man to steal from another. But over-powerful government can rob the individual just as surely—only the scale is grander, the stakes are greater, and the loss far more tragic. For what is stolen by paternalistic government is that precious compound of initiative, independence and self-respect that distinguishes a man from the mob, a person from a number, a freeman from the slave....

"We Republicans take our stand for the individual!....

"We will not barter local and state responsibility for centralization, nor will we trade a little government intervention for a little handout.

"We consider it sheer arrogance to believe that people in government know better for the people than they know for themselves.

### Opposed to Coercion

"We are, therefore, against programs that would substitute coercion for co-operation. The new farm proposals, creating an agricultural czar, are a case in point.

"We are against programs that erode away citizen, local and state self-reliance. Federal payment of teachers' salaries—

as distinguished from needed construction—is a case in point.

"We are against the insulting concept of government by big brother. Excessive public housing, rampant public power, Federalized youth programs are cases in point.

### Responsible Progress

"But as we fight the unwise, we Republicans proudly stand for positive programs in every area of public concern. We have long stood for advances in such programs as education, agriculture, minimum wage, medical care and area redevelopment. But here is the great difference—our Republican watchword is 'responsible progress.'....

"I look in vain, and with deep concern, for fiscal responsibility today in public affairs. As I note the mounting expenditures, I often think how easy it is to buy things when you're spending the other fellow's money. That this must stop is one of the things that a strong, unified Republican party should be teaching and preaching—and, so doing, can stop."

Mr. Eisenhower cautioned against friction within the party when members begin to "choose up sides" for 1964's Presidential election. He urged party harmony and a "combined voice" by its leaders and would-be candidates.

On the whole, Mr. Eisenhower gave his party some good advice, but he might have selected and emphasized above all else one issue—the inflation that, unless checked, will make the dollar worth less and less as the prices of almost everything rise due to excessive spending by the Federal government. That's what may affect the next election more than any other issue.

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